GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1424
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
MODERNISATION OF ARMY
Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many projects for modernization of the Army have still not been implemented as reported in the 'Times of India' dated December 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Armed Forces of the neighbouring countries are better equipped than Indian Army; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for speedy implementation of the modernization projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1424 FOR ANSWER ON 8.3.2007

Modernisation of the Indian Army, including its Para Special Forces, is focused on the development of 'Force Capabilities' based on our present and emerging responsibility in the domestic and regional/global context. Modernisation of the Army is an ongoing process which is periodically reviewed to keep it in tune without operational imperatives and regional environment. The progress of modernization in the 10th Plan period is on the whole satisfactory, although a comprehensive picture will be available on a review of the 10th Plan on its conclusion.

2. The Armed Forces of all countries endeavor to keep their combat power well honed through Modernisation. Similarly, our neighbours in keeping with their national aspirations, have been modernizing their Armed Forces. Our focus in this regard has been to modernize, to cater for threats, as well as to fulfill our responsibilities in the region. Therefore, the thrust of our modernization has been to ensure that our Army develops matching capabilities if not better than our adversaries.

3. Acquisition of weapons and equipment for Modernisation of Army is being undertaken as per the laid down procedure, the current one in vogue is Defence Procurement Procedure 2006.